

Amendments to the Specification:

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--An image formed on the image pickup element 107 by a light having passed the lenses 101 and 102, the diaphragm 103 and the lenses 104 and 105 undergoes photoelectric conversion, is amplified by an amplifier ~~[[109]]~~ 110 to the optimal level, and entered into a camera signal processing circuit 112. After the signals are converted by the camera signal processing circuit 112 into input standard television signals, the converted signals are amplified by an amplifier 132 to the optimal level, and delivered to a magnetic recording/reproduction device 133 as well as to an LCD display circuit 134 to have the shot picture displayed on an LCD 135. Information items for the photographer, such as the shooting mode, shooting situation and alarms, are displayed on the LCD 135, and they are superposed over the shot picture by having a camera microcomputer 116 control a character generator 136 to cause output signals 136 to be mixed by the LCD display circuit 134.--

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Or when the AF switch 131 is on and the zoom switch 130 is not pressed, an AF program 117 sends a signal to the focusing motor driver 126 so that the AF evaluation value signal sent from the camera microcomputer 116 be maximized, and performs automatic focus control by operating the focusing/compensating lens 105 via the focusing motor 125. Further, when the AF switch 131 is off and the zoom switch 130 is not pressed, the focusing/compensating lens ~~[[104]]~~ 105 is controlled according to the result of detection by the focusing ring 601 to vary the in-focus point by manual focusing.--

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Whereas the switch 139 undergoes power supply control by the camera microcomputer 116 and a photodiode unit 606 emits light when power supply is on, with the emitted light being detected by a phototransistor unit 607, as the comb-like shape of the focusing ring 601 causes light projection and interception to be repeated along with the rotation of the ring, the output signal of a phototransistor unit ~~[[609]]~~ 607 takes on a pulse output form (see FIGS. 9A and 9B).--

Appl. No. 10/615,693

Paper dated January 31, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated September 30, 2004

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--At step S406, it is judged whether the count is increasing or decreasing from the previous count α and, if ~~decreasing~~ increasing, the shifting direction of the focusing/compensating lens 105 is set towards the close-up (step S407) or, if increasing ~~decreasing~~, the shifting direction of the focusing/compensating lens 105 is set towards infinity (step S408). Then, the focusing speed is set according to the differential quantity (step S409), a focusing drive instruction is supplied to the motor driver 126 (step S410), and the current count is stored into the memory as a at step S405 to go out of processing (step S411). Since a greater count differential means a correspondingly greater quantity of rotation of the focusing ring 601, the focusing speed is set high to increase the shifting quantity.--